



Razor's Edge

By
Joe Mari Mercader
Executive Editor
FILIPINO TIMES
New York-New Jersey

Joe Mari Mercader . . .

Prez' Mega Plan For Perpetuity Bears Fruit

"In a manner of speaking, the formal election of delegates to a constitutional convention, which is the process resorted to by democratic governments when they want to amend or abrogate the Constitution, is now officially obsolete. By this token, our orgasmic defiance to her macabre scheme is totally rendered impotent."

NEW YORK, NY, April 29 (PinoyGlobal) - The Commission On Elections (Comelec) is a constitutional body. As such, once the chairman is appointed and confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, he is beyond the seductive, frivolous and filthy clutches of political bullies, particularly the president. He can only be impeached for cause. Not even Congress that appropriates Comelec's budget could dictate on him.

Notwithstanding this impregnable reality, Comelec Chairman Jose Melo is everything but independent of the president. Somehow he dances to the strains of Malacanang's music, especially because he just emerged from a regodon (from SC Justice to Comelec Chairman). Only someone beholden to the president would waste no time in validating the controversial "election" of party-list Gen. Jovito Palparan, a GMA puppet from the military, despite the thunderous disapproval from the people.

Palparan is said to have many cases against him involving human rights violations. Extra-judicial killings of media men and activists are among them. He must have forgotten that the sobriquet "Dirty Harry" is the sole trophy of Alfredo Lim. That's why the timid electorate of Manila tossed him to the mayorship. Out of fear, you choose your wild guess, which is just as good as mine.

Curiously, Palparan was the commanding officer when the summary executions were done in the absence of due process. This indelible fact makes his winning without merit and Melo's hasty resolution proclaiming his victory, doubly so.

Palparan is going to Congress with another Arroyo

- Maria Lourdes, who is one of the new party-list members in the House, and is a sister-in-law of GMA. The rest of the added 32 new party-lists approved by the Supreme Court are possibly close and distant relatives of the president. It will not surprise me if ex-nannies of family members, cooks, maids, dogs, cats, you name it, will fill up the foul smelling list of new congressmen. They will be there to thwart any opposition to the pet Charter change Gloria wants culminated in a farce she euphemized as constituent assembly (con-ass) that will abort the elections and expedite the new Constitution that will be tailor made for her.

In a manner of speaking, the formal election of delegates to a constitutional convention, which is the process resorted to by democratic governments when they want to amend or abrogate the Constitution, is now officially obsolete. By this token, our orgasmic defiance to her macabre scheme is totally rendered impotent.

At this juncture, I am inclined to ask: how is it that chairman Melo swore him winner of the 2007 mid-season elections, in utter disregard of the charges raging around this so-called "butcher"? Incidentally, "butcher" is the moniker appended to the former general for the murders he is accused of, granting they are true. He could have at least waited until the embattled general is fully exonerated in court.

Before being chosen Comelec chief, he was a Supreme Court Justice handpicked by the president, precisely to investigate Palparan. He found the general answerable for the crimes he is accused of, anchored on a mountain of circumstantial evidence. Melo himself said Palparan is guilty, but left the final decision to the president what to do

with his findings. Nevertheless, he anointed him winner.

What gives, Mr. Melo? Are you harassed, or is your table so high something went under it that the public failed to see? Don't blame our simple folks entertaining unsavory conclusions about what motivated you to make this controversial, if suspicious, ceremonial act that has virtually opened the floodgates of these unkind thoughts about you.

What if you are wrong when everything will be exhumed, proving that indeed Palparan is guilty as sin for the crimes ascribed to him? How could the damage be undone? Naturally, his closest adversary will be sworn. And what if a déjà vu happens that his adversary is sworn in on the last day of sessions? What benefit would that be to the people? This is not far-fetched because it happened with Congressman Artemio Lobrin, who dislodged the son of Speaker Jose P. Laurel Jr., Macario IV, years ago after coming out winner of his protest filed against the young Laurel.

The event that followed was a comic spectacle. Lobrin delivered his acceptance and valedictory speech at the same time on the floor of Congress. Meanwhile the nation was deprived of a good timber in Congress because Lobrin was a wizard in figures: He was Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner.

In any case, Melo's indiscretion gives us a sneak preview of the kind of justices we have in the High Tribunal. The fear is that there are vacancies yet to be filled up by Madam Arroyo. Knowing how desperate the lady president is to push through the Charter change, which is her vehicle to become prime minister, we can almost anticipate that the justices to be appointed will be pledging unwavering support for her obsession to linger in power. Her wishes will be their collective command and the opposition can kiss goodbye to the delusion of extirpating or uprooting her from the presidency because that will never happen. Not in our lifetime!

Erap was right when he said alluding to justices – “They are hoods in robes.” Nothing can be more correct!